

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board
May 12, 2020 9:00am – 12:15pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT pending approval

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kelly Garcia (co-chair)
Ann Lebo (co-chair)
Andrew Allen
Darci Alt
Melanie Cleveringa
Dan Cox
Scott Hobart
Peggy Huppert
Nalo Johnson for Gerd Clabaugh
Carol Meade

Mary Neubauer
John Parmeter
Okpara Rice
Jason Sandholdt
Beth Townsend
Shanell Wagler
Senator Edler
Representative Brown-Powers
Senator Mathis

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Nate Noble

Representative Lundgren

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Adrienne Seusy
Amy Campbell
Amy Campbell
Analisa Person
Barb Anderson
Bob Lincoln
Brad Niebling
Carlye Wellman
Carrie Malone
Chad Jensen
Chaney Yeast
Chevis Krull
Cynthia Miller
Dave Tilly
Dawn Mentzer
Debra Schrader
Emily Piper
Flora Schmidt
Jack Mescher
Jan Heikes
Jennifer Robbins
Jess Benson
Jim Donoghue
Jody Eaton
Julie Gibbons
Julie Jetter
Julie Maas
Katie Peck
Kent Ohms
Kim Scorza

Kimberly Wilson
Kris Bell
Kristi Younis
Leisa Mayer
Linda Duffy
Liz Cox
Lori Elam
Lori Nosekabel
Mae Hingtgen
Marissa Eyanson
Matt Highland
Melissa Loehr
Michael Bergan
Michele Tilotta
Misti Johnson
Natalie Ginty
Patty Funaro
Rachel Cecil
Rhonda Rairden-Nelson
Richard Whitaker
Robin McKee
Russell Wood
Ryenne Wood
Sandi Hurtado-Peters
Shan Seivert
Shane Walter
Sharon Nieman
Sue Whitty
Suzanne Watson
Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson

Tasha Beghtol
Theresa Armstrong
Todd Lange

Torie Keith
Vickie Miene

MATERIALS REFERENCED: See <https://dhs.iowa.gov/about/mhds-advisory-groups/childrens-system-state-board>

February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Children's Meeting Topic Workplan

Regional Children's Services – April 2020

Regional Implementation Plan Summary 5.1.2020

Welcome and Introduction

Director Kelly Garcia and Director Ann Lebo called the meeting to order at 9:00am and thanked everyone for attending the meeting in its new virtual format. Quorum was established with fifteen members present.

Update on Current Events

Dave Tilly reflected since the last Children's Board meeting, the world has changed drastically in 9 weeks. Since the growth of COVID-19, the Department of Education has been providing support to children, families, teachers, and school staff as this has been a stressful time for all. 327 school districts have transitioned to distance and/or online learning, worked with communities to ensure meals are still distributed to students, and are providing twice weekly webinars to educators. For further information, please see <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/4-21-20COVID-19FamilySchoolPartnershipResources.pdf>.

The CARES Act provided \$2.2 trillion dollars as a relief bill. All 327 school districts applied for their portion of the funds totaling \$71 million statewide to be spent to support schools. The Department of Education is also working to provide more supported learning online, including support to schools regarding social emotional behavioral health. Providing return to learn guidance but open to items that are important and not being addressed.

Kelly Garcia highlighted the interstate collaboration that is occurring due to COVID-19. DHS has a COVID-19 webpage, <https://dhs.iowa.gov/COVID19>, which reflects updates as they come. Key changes to the Medicaid program, including expansion of services being provided via telehealth, ensure that people remain accessing critical behavioral health supports. Receiving federal dollars quarterly to support the enhancement of services being provided. Medicaid enrollment has remained open during this time. DHS recognizes the opportunity that growth in providing telehealth has created and hopeful to keep this format moving forward. In collaboration with the Department of Education, both agencies have been working to provide support to children and their families through unconventional ways as teachers are not able to provide that same in-person support as they have previously. Still seeing significant drop off in reporting of child abuse. DHS has had a shift in own workforce. Field workers are still continuing work and other are working from home.

Kelly Garcia reported that the daily psychiatric bed availability is extremely high across the state. DHS worries that people are not accessing the services they need. DHS is working to ensure open dialogue continues to occur about what is going on and how individuals can receive help with their mental health. Decisions are made with the needs of our clients in mind and making new pathways in an unprecedented crisis that doesn't have a playbook. DHS is

making direct payments to providers using federal CARES Act dollars with the goal to quickly get these dollars out.

Kelly Garcia introduced Marissa Eyanson as the new Division Administrator for MHDS Community Services.

Ann Lebo reviewed pending legislation, SF2100, provisions to behavioral health services in schools, including telehealth.

Okpara Rice raised the question of hazard pay for essential workers. Beth Townsend reported many conversations are occurring about hazard pay reporting this would need to come from the federal level.

Review & Vote on Approval of February 11, 2020

Dan Cox made a motion to approve the *February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes*. Andrew Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MHDS Region Transition Plans

Darci Alt, Heart of Iowa Community Services CEO, provided a summary of the Region's Children's Transition Plans, *Regional Implementation Plan Summary 5.1.2020*. By July 1, 2020 the Regions are to provide assessment & evaluation, behavioral health outpatient therapy, education services, medication prescribing and management and prevention. All Regions provide these services. Most Regions also provide mobile response. By July 1, 2021 crisis stabilization community-based services and crisis stabilization residential services will be developed by most Regions. Regions will be meeting with the AEAs in June to discuss how they can collaborate moving forward. Hopeful to have this meeting on a quarterly basis.

Jennifer Robbins, South Central Behavioral Health CEO, reported her Region has not been able to hire a children's coordinator due to the current situation. The Region continues to meet with their Children's Advisory Committee. Since legislation hasn't passed to lower the levy, the Region is moving forward with the current levy unless something changes. The Region is working with experts in children's services to look at gaps currently within the region.

Russell Wood, Central Iowa Community Services CEO, will be the CEO July 2020. Robin McGee has been hired as the children's coordinator. She has significant experience working with children and families and will be working to train and educate other service coordinators in each county in the Region. The Region will have local staff responding to local needs. Reported it has been difficult to develop services at this point, even with money the current situation has made it difficult to meet or plan with providers. Our region has money to invest in building services. With the current situation, providers are struggling with staffing and therefore seeing a significant reduction in utilization of services. Plan to use fund balance for developing services. Currently reaching out to providers to create footprint to not recreate existing services and supports. Moving forward and believe the use of telehealth will be more prevalent but we need to remain aware that model is not successful with some clients.

Rachel Cecil, County Rural Offices of Social Services CEO, reported hiring children's coordinator in January. Children's coordinator is planning to do virtual outreach at this time. The region has MOU's with Title 5 agency and First Five agency, 7 public health agencies, and 2 ECI agencies. Working with many different agencies that cross over a few Regions. The children's coordinator will work to organize the efforts. Children's Advisory Committee has met a few times.

Bob Lincoln, County Social Services CEO, working to expand and develop children's services while using a public health model; looking at primary, secondary, and tertiary supports. CMHC's will be a primary source for services in the Region and has been serving children in many settings, including schools. Working with local superintendents and AEAs to build relationships and fill gaps. Continuing to work with MCO's to extend services and work through IHH. Slow to roll out mobile crisis due to geography of Region.

Suzanne Watson, Southwest Iowa MHDS CEO, reported working on policy and procedure amendments and filling advisory committee positions. Having struggles filling provider spots. Plan to have first meeting in June. Region has had many services in place already, including mobile response since 2005. Mobile response had already expanded to using telehealth prior to COVID-19 and has been successful. Region has been working with AEA; has been seamless and have good relationships. Region is currently not hiring children's coordinator but will assess the need based on referrals. The Region has 5 service coordinators currently.

Kim Wilson, Northwest Iowa Care Connection CEO, reported being in a transition period due to change in Region logistics. Kim will be retiring in June and Melissa Loehr will be assuming the CEO position. The Region is working on updating management plan and annual services and budget plan and selecting members for their Children's Advisory Committee. Governance Board has expressed concerns about ability to fund children in addition to serving adults.

Shane Walter, Sioux Rivers MHDS CEO, reported Region is moving forward with services while having concerns for funding services. Region has been serving children for many years, including serving children in schools with therapists as well as summer programs for children with disabilities. Designated current adult coordinator, Sharon Nieman, will also be children's coordinator.

Liz Cox, Polk County Region CEO, reported reorganization of Region to meet governing board requirements. Region added many members to Governing Board and established their Children's Advisory Committee and established the Polk County Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative. Julie Gibbons has been hired as children's coordinator for the Region. Working regularly with the AEA. Region will have significant funding challenges beginning in SFY21 due to the expiration of existing funding arrangement. Region plans to cut all non-core services and cut 35% of core services. Region has worked extensively with local stakeholders to provide significant information about mental health during this pandemic.

Ryanne Wood, Southeast Iowa Link CEO, reported working diligently with all Region CEOs to standardize how Regions operate while recognizing each Region will operate differently based on Region's needs and resources. Region has been working with community stakeholders to identify how our Region should be structured based on what our Region needs and what we can do while working to develop new services.

Lori Elam, Eastern Iowa MHDS CEO, expressed excitement as relationships develop with providers to develop children's services and bring new opportunities to the Region. Region working through logistical issues but feels the Region has become a very strong unit dealing with the challenges. Region has a great crisis services system and has been serving children since they began. Services include mobile response, crisis residential beds, 23 hour holding, crisis assessment, telehealth in all 7 hospitals, mental health and coordination in jails, and have care coordinators in emergency departments. A new hospital is opening in June, Eagle View Behavioral Health that will have a dedicated children's wing, adolescent wing, adult wing, and

geriatrics wing. Financially, the Region is in a severe crisis and is looking at a \$2M less decrease in the budget. The Region spent down its fund balance as directed by SF504 and modified through HF691. Started waiting lists. Initially put money in the budget for a children's coordinator but board decided to not hire as they want that money to go to individuals. Region has designated Lori as the children's coordinator and will assess need.

Mae Hingtgen, MHDS of East Central Region CEO, reported having service coordinator in each county and will designate an existing staff to be children's coordinator. Region will continue to assess need based on referrals. Recognized the importance of telehealth, how it has been successful during this time, and how it can be utilized to fill gaps with transitional periods for children. Sought stakeholder input for what is needed to grow children's services in the Region. Region has begun funding collaborative time for licensed mental health practitioners through available funding for consultation. Will continue to meet with school districts and collaborate on how to best serve children.

Lori Nosekabel, Southern Hills Regional Mental Health CEO, reported building Children's Advisory Committee and has only been able to meet virtual given the pandemic. Region is contracting with local mental health center for the children's coordinator.

Darci Alt, Heart of Iowa Community Services CEO, reported currently providing family support in schools. Also provides peer support summer camp for teenagers. Referred to *Regional Children's Services – April 2020* and *Regional Implementation Plan Summary 5.1.2020* to review services being provided and progress on Children's Advisory Committee.

Dawn Mentzer, Rolling Hills Community Services CEO, reported Children's Advisory Committee was appointed by Governing Board in April and are hopeful to have first meeting this summer. Region has made significant progress on building service provider network. Region rolled out mobile response in November 2019 for all ages. Working to continue expanding initiatives in schools along with funding many services provided in schools.

Board had significant conversation regarding funding for the children's system. Board members expressed the need for sustainable, reliable funding; acknowledged that COVID-19 will significantly impact the children's system progress and recognized the potential need for flexibility in the timeline for the children's system development due to current financial restraints expressed.

Update from Metrics Subcommittee

Due to the meeting being short on time, this presentation was transitioned to a written update for the Board and further discussion was postponed until the next Children's Board meeting.

Planning for Next Steps

Dave Tilly walked the Board through the *Children's Meeting Topics Workplan*. Planning for the August meeting, at this time, the plan is to have another discussion around funding for the children's system, a robust metrics presentation, presentation on telehealth in schools, and a discussion on SED determination. Request for law enforcement presentation in November. Request for longer meeting with more breaks or to meet more often.

Public Comment

Flora Schmidt, Iowa Behavioral Health Association, emphasized the amazing collaboration that has been occurring between state agencies and payment providers to ensure services are continuing and information is being dispersed to individuals, communities, and stakeholders

during this very interesting time. The fact that telehealth is being reimbursed by Medicaid at the same rate has been incredible for providers. Flora thanked the Board, the Regions, and the state departments for all their work and dedication to the mental health of Iowans.

Adjourn

Director Garcia, Director Lebo, and Dave Tilly thanked the Board and the public for their participation throughout the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Keith.

DRAFT